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RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1378  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 3425  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2811  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISHKEK 000488

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/CEN

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [KG](#)

SUBJECT: KYRGYZSTAN: AMBASSADOR OPENS TALAS BORDER POST

REF: A. BISHKEK 487

[1](#)B. BISHKEK 482

[1](#)C. BISHKEK 380

Classified By: Ambassador Tatiana C. Gfoeller, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) On May 15, the Ambassador opened the U.S.-funded "Green Border Post" at the Chon Kapka port of entry in Talas Oblast on the Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan border. The Chon Kapka Green Border Post is a portable, container-like module that replaces a railroad car previously used as the headquarters for customs and border personnel. The new structure provides a heated space with plumbing, room for offices and sleeping quarters, and is equipped with modern technical equipment. Funded jointly by the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program and U.S. Central Command, the Chon Kapka facility is the fourth such post to be completed along remote stretches of Kyrgyzstan's border.

[1](#)2. (U) The Ambassador joined Talas Oblast Governor Beishenbek Bolotbekov, Border Service Deputy Chairman Cholponbek Turusbekov, and other officials in the opening ceremony. Speaking at the opening, the Ambassador highlighted our vested interest in Kyrgyzstan's security and stability, which explained why the USG plans to build 24 such posts along Kyrgyzstan's borders at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million.

[1](#)3. (U) Following the ceremony, the guests drove to a second location for a traditional Kyrgyz feast to mark the completion of the new post. The Ambassador was seated as the guest of honor between Bolotbekov and Turusbekov, but Bolotbekov was initially reluctant to offer the traditional sheep's eyeball to a woman as honored guest. However, after the Ambassador told him that earlier in her career, her Turkmen hosts had shown no such qualms about offering her the eyeball, a shame-faced Bolotbekov insisted that she enjoy this honor in Kyrgyzstan as well, offering her his own sheep's eyeball. The Ambassador gamely ate it.

[1](#)4. (C) Through several rounds of toasts that followed, Bolotbekov and Turusbekov repeatedly thanked the Ambassador for the U.S. government's support in financing the construction of the latest Green Border Post. All seemed

sweetness and light until the Ambassador brought up an issue first aired at the previous day's lunch she had hosted for local government officials and NGOs. An NGO leader had then alleged that border demarcation problems between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan remained to this day. She asked Bolotbekov and Turusbekov for their comments. Bolotbekov dismissed the matter out of hand as "the chattering of some malcontents."

15. (C) To the Ambassador's surprise, the Border Service Deputy Chairman boldly contradicted his Governor at this point, stating: "Settling on this location was one tough border dispute! The Kazakhs wanted the border post much further into Kyrgyz territory than it is now. If we hadn't stood up to them, you would have been inaugurating your 'Green Border Post' kilometers from here." The Governor was visibly annoyed but did not contradict the military man. Instead he stood up and gave a fulsome toast to "all the brave men who guard the Kyrgyz homeland." All cheered and the disagreement was glossed over.  
GFOELLER